

The state of the *Adventurers Case*, which resolves it self

J. C. Law

I.

Into the Nature of their Title and the Equity of it, consisting in these Particulars.

1. **A**S not only making a solemn Contract with, but being thereunto invited by his late Majesty, and both Houses of Parliament, as the most facile and expedite way then appearing to them for the sudden suppression of that Rebellion, in which it appeared that about three hundred thousand of *English* Protestants were most Cruelly and Barbarously Massacred.
2. That by the said Contract the Monies so subscribed and paid in, were to be secured upon *Irish* Lands, forfeited by the said Rebellion, which also were to be first satisfied before any other dispose was to be made of the said forfeited Lands; and were to be set out and distributed by Lot to the said Adventurers or their Assigns, as soon as the said Rebellion should be ended, as by the Acts of the 17. and 18. of the late King, may more at large appear.
3. That upon the invitation and Conditions aforesaid, near four hundred thousand pounds were subscribed and paid in by several Adventurers.
4. That after the Monies were thus subscribed, the length of time considered before any Land was set out to them, after the first breaking out of the said Rebellion; together with the smallness of the Rents, which are known to be of little value in that Country; the charge the said Adventurers were at for Surveying, Planting, Stocking, Building, and improving their said Lots; and the further charge that the said Adventurers have been since put unto for maintaining and defending the same to near the value of the first Purchase, it will easily appear, That there is no Original Adventurer, but might with the Money in disburse Purchase above seven times the quantity of Lands that are by the said Acts due to him; and such as are deficient wholly many times more.
5. That when the said Rebellion was ended, and the said Adventurers were according to the said Act to be satisfied (his Majesty being then absent) the said Adventurers were with the rest of the Nation subject to the Powers that then held, and had Usurped the Government, and consequently subject to such orders and rules as they the said pretended Powers should give and direct for the satisfaction of them. By which means as the said Adventurers were no way capable of pursuing the Letter of the Acts of the 17. and 18. before mentioned; so not of obtaining any other satisfaction, then what was appointed to be cast at first by Lot on the Moyety of those ten Counties that were named and prescribed by the said pretended Powers to them; although the forfeited Lands of the said Moyety falling extremely deficient of what they were estimated at, proved no small Disadvantage, Loss, and Obstruction to the settlement of many of them; who have remained to this day deficient of their satisfaction.
6. That his Majesty upon his most happy Restauration, taking into his gracious consideration the force the said Adventurers (as well as the rest of these Kingdoms) had for a season been under; And that many of them were entirely affected for his Majesty, and eminently active for his Restauration, And further weighing in his Princely Justice and Wisdom, and extraordinary charge which the said Adventurers had been at in Settling and Planting their said Lots, with the quiet possession that had been for some years held by them, was upon these reasons tenderly moved to declare, that no advantage should be taken to the prejudicing or invalidating the right or title of the said Adventurers; because their Lots were not in all things pursued according to the strictness of the Law set down in the Acts before mentioned. But that all the Lands, Tenements, and Hereditaments, of which all or any of the said Adventurers were possessed the 7. day of May, 1659. should (with-

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out any abatement) be confirmed and made good to them, their Heirs, and Assigns for ever. And that all that were deficient Adventurers in whole or in part, should also be satisfied out of the Moyety of the said Ten Counties, or out of the County of *Louth*, or out of some other forfeited Lands that should be thought convenient. And did further graciously declare and provide, that if any Adventurer had by any irregularity or mistake been placed on any Church-Lands, or the Lands of any Protestant, or of any Innocent Papist, being such as shall prove themselves to have been Faithful and Loyal unto, and never to have acted against his Majesties late Father or Himself, since 22. of *October*, 1641. The said Adventurer though to be removed from his possession, to make room for the said Innocent Papist, should nevertheless forthwith have a reprice of equal value, worth, and purchase, in other forfeited Lands.

II.

Into the Nature of their Complaint.

The substance of which is, that after the Adventurers were again thus confirmed in their several and respective Rights, and that a settlement of them with a due respect to the Souldier, and indeed to the whole Protestant Interest, and to all other interest in that Kingdom, had by the great care, pains, and extraordinary Industry of his Majesty himself been thus made and published by his gracious Declaration, which was further and for the better confirmation of it, to the said Adventurers and others passed into a Bill; nevertheless through the undue proceedings, and mismanagement of the trust of certain Commissioners that were sent over from hence to see his Majesties said Declaration (with the Act for confirming of it) put into Execution all that happy, equal, and just settlement, thus graciously provided and intended by his Majesty, and no less expected by the said Adventurers, was not only in a great measure frustrated, and the said Adventurers deprived proportionably of the benefit of it; but the end of it in a sense totally perverted.

Which Complaint, with the justness and truth of it will clearly appear to any that shall please to consider the Circumstances following grounded on matter of Fact.

For whereas pag. 16 and 17 of the said Act there is an expresse provision made for the Rights of any Protestants whose Lands had been disposed of in the late times, and for every Irish Proprietor whatever of the Popish Religion, that had been dispossessed of their Estates meerly for being Papists: And that it is thereupon declared, That the Innocent Papists shall be such (as was before mentioned, viz.) as shall prove themselves to have been faithful and Loyal unto, and never to have acted against his late Royal Majesty, or against his Sovereign Majesty that now is since the 22. of *October* 1641. In which Case such was the great tenderness of his Majesty, That even though such Innocent Papist had had Land formerly disposed to them in *Connacht*, and had been there settled; yet they were immediately to be restored to their ancient possessions, and the Adventurer and Souldier to be removed without any previous reprisal given them.

Notwithstanding which said Clause, and His Majesties great care thus signally to distinguish between the persons designed to be taken into this great Grace, and all others of that Nation: And notwithstanding also the greater necessity which was incumbent upon all the said persons to make such proof, in regard pag. 36. of the said Act, It is yet further expressly provided, That none shall be accounted an Innocent Papist, that being of full age and sound memory, enjoyed their Estate real and personal in the Rebels Quarters, which became them therefore in the first place by proof to clear themselves of, before such their Innocency could possibly by the said Law be presumed (especially when the English Quarters were confined to so narrow a room as they were.)

Yet such was the Inclinations of the said Commissioners to the Irish, That as if no such instructions had been made: And without any respect had to them, the Irish under all Qualifications were not only admitted freely to claim their respective Estates without any proofs of their Innocency first demanded of them, or of so much as their living and abiding constantly in the English Quarters, notwithstanding both the words of the Act required proof, and the generality of the Rebellion

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(not only well known, but signified in the very Act it self) did inforce the Reasonableness of it. And had their Estates so claimed, decreed to them accordingly (even though sometimes there was neither clear proof made, nor any strict examination had of the very Titles themselves of the estates so claimed) unless a proof were actually brought to Evidence their Nocency and Rebellion by the English. Act. 1.
Pag. 1. 2.

Which proof, though in some Cases it was altogether impossible to be made after twenty years time being elapsed: And when the Rebellion was so general, and so many Thousands of the English were within that time dead, and had been killed in the defence of the said Kingdom: And when so many means and Artifices had during that time been industriously used to murder such Witnesses, suppress such Evidences, and also to vitiate and imbezle such Records and Testimonies as might any way prove the said Rebellion against particular persons, as are by the said Act it self taken notice of: And therefore abundantly the more unreasonable to exact the said proof from the English, and especially from the Adventurers, who were strangers wholly to that Country. Act. 1.
Pag. 3. and
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Nevertheless, as if this Case had no way differed from that which is common or ordinary; or had had no Circumstances in it sufficiently to discriminate it from all others, The proof was not yet only cast, but made more hard or more impossible for the said Adventurers, by the following Course and Proceedings of the said Commissioners. *Viz.*

1. While the said Commissioners, though by the very tenour of their Oath they were to administer Justice between His Majesty and the Subject; yet refused to allow the King to be a Party, even though the House of Commons then sitting in Parliament in that Kingdom, and having Judiciously taken Cognizance of the matter, declared their Judgment in it, and the necessity for it by their Speaker (*viz.*) That the tryal of Nocency and Innocency, being the same with the tryal of guilty of the Rebellion (or of the Qualifications and Exceptions in the Act mentioned) or not guilty, could not be accounted any other then a Plea of the Crown, and therefore the King unavoidably entituled to be a party to it. And though for want of this Admission of His Majesty to be a Party, both the Crown it self, the said Adventurers, and all other the English and Protestants, were deprived of the benefit of that Evidence, which the Law alloweth on the Kings behalf. And that the Irish having by this means Council allowed to them, were not only countenanced, but emboldned against the English.

2. While therefore in many Cases they would admit of no proofs at all taken upon Record; but exacted living Testimonies to be produced before them.

3. While nevertheless under pretence that the Officers who served in that Kingdom before 1649. were parties (because they had a Claim in general to their Arrears, though it appeared not where) They did debar and exclude the Testimony both of the said Officers, and their Tenants, though they were not only persons of Honour and Repute; but the only English Witnesses upon the matter, that were then surviving in that Kingdom.

4. Which strange and unheard of Exception was yet the harder, in regard the Popish Priests did at the same time thunder forth threats of Excommunication against any Irish that should actually be assistant to the English in their proofs before the said Commissioners: By which means not only the said Adventurers, but all other the Protestants came every way to be straitened and distressed for want of Evidence.

5. While notwithstanding this severity to the English, they did yet admit Irish to be Witnesses for Irish, even although they were not such only as had lived in the Enemies Quarters; but some of them such as had actually been convicted and proved nocent before them.

6. Yea, when a Proof hath not without all these difficulties been brought by the said Adventurers or other Protestants (and by several Testimonies upon Oath made good) to evidence the nocency actually of the said Irish; yet even after such proof made, the Irish were admitted to produce their Countrymen to make negative proofs. And those very negative proofs were admitted against the affirmative proofs, brought by the English, though contrary, not only to all presidents and proceedings in Criminal Cases, but to the Law it self. And though such a practice once admitted, no Justice can easily be expected against the Rankest and most Criminal Offenders. But all Evidence imaginable how good or strong soever, may easily be eluded.

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7. All which nevertheless the said Commissioners not only did, but persisted in, even after and notwithstanding the House of Commons then sitting in *Ireland*; and who being the Passers were the most competent Directors and Interpreters of the said Act, did in *February 1662.* with their Speaker wait upon his Grace the Lord Lieutenant, partly to complain of, and partly to prevent several of the said abuses and miscarriages which are here mentioned, especially when the said Commissioners refusing to proceed in the said Tryal by Jurys, had made themselves the sole and arbitrary Tryers and Judgers of all persons and Cases whatever, that were capable by the said Act to come before them.

8. And yet as if all this were too too little favour to express to the said *Irish*, after the time appointed by the said Act for the Tryal of the said innocent Papists, was wholly effluxed and determined; and that many of the Defendants among the Adventurers and others, relying upon the said determination, and upon the opinion of their Council therein, did repair to their habitations in the Country: The said Commissioners continued there sitting about seven weeks longer, within which small compass of time (by reason of the absence of the said Defendants, and little notice that was capable to be had of the said Claims) more Lands was decreed away, than during all their sitting for twelve months before.

For whereas the Adventurers had in their twelve months sitting lost of their Possessions not above eighty four thousand Acres, or there about, there was within the last seven weeks sitting of the said Commissioners decreed from the Adventurers alone, One hundred and forty thousand Acres besides the first Eighty four thousand.

9. Nor is it yet less to be remarked; that though it was his Majesties express pleasure, *Pag. 18.* and one of the express Instructions in the said Act, *Pag. 37.* That such Protestants, both Adventurers, and Souldiers, as were removed, should be forthwith reprized in other forfeited Lands of equal value, worth, and purchase. And though the Oaths of the said Commissioners did no less tie them to this, then to other the Instructions of the said Act; And that the Lord Lieutenant, and Council, in pursuance of the Authority given them by the said Act, did expressly direct the said Commissioners to bestow some part of their time for reprizing so many English as had lost (by these their unheard of proceedings) both their possessions and improvements, yet such was their intentness upon pleasuring the *Irish*, and disposing away the Lands from the Crown, and from the English, that neither during the whole time of their twelve months sitting, nor during the seven weeks further assumed by them, any time was spared for the reprizal so much as of one single person.

By which unusual and unheard of Proceedings

As scarce one of forty among the said *Irish*, that so claimed their Estates, was found nocent, or could possibly indeed be so found; according to the rules and course of proceedings aforesaid.

So many persons publickly known to be active in the Rebellion, were by this means wholly restored, not only to their ancient Estates, but to far greater, and to the English Improvements upon them; great scopes and tracts of Land to the quantity of near Twelve hundred thousand Acres Irish measure, were decreed from the Crown and from the English.

And for a further Compliance with the *Irish* and with others that had obtained great grants of Land from his Majesty; a necessity was pretended, that there would not now be Lands left sufficient to make Reprisals for all that had lost their possessions, and for satisfying of Incumbrances, and making up of Deficiencies, unless the Adventurers, Souldiers, and rest of the English there (some Lords and eminent Persons only excepted) would quit a part of all that they had a right unto, to make up a satisfaction for the rest. And that though neither his Majesties Declaration, nor the Act of Settlement, doth any where warrant any such proceeding, though also his Majesty do by his Declaration, *Pag. 11. 12, 25, 26, 27, 28.* expressly provide and take care for his Protestant Subjects to be first satisfied, their due and just interests before any other: And that a years Rent was *Pag. 28. and 29.* raised upon the Adventurers; a years Rent more upon the Souldiers that were satisfied 1653 and a year and half Rent (all according to the utmost value in 1659). from the Souldier that was satisfied in 1655. 1656. and 1657. purposely for the better gratifying and complying with all Interests.

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Upon which unwarrantable pretence, nevertheless a new Act was contrived and set on foot, under the name of explaining some doubts in the Act of Settlement. By which,

1. All the Decrees made by the said Commissioners, in the tryal of the said Papists, after the manner and proceeding aforesaid were in *Terminis*, absolutely ratified and confirmed, as well those made after the time limited by their Commission, as those within the said time, as appears *Pag. 8. Pag. 51. and Pag. 127.* and that with an express *non obstante* to any exception capable to be taken against the said Decrees, either in the point of time when the said Decrees were made, or as to any irregularity of them in not pursuing his Majesties said Declaration and Instructions, according to the intent of the Act of Settlement, and as they were by their duty obliged.

2. Not only the Earl of *Antrim*, but the Lord of *Gormans Town*, the Lord *Dunfany*, the Lord *Montgarret*, Lord *Nettervil*, with several other Irish (too notorious to be tried by the said Commissioners as Innocents) were by the said explanatory Act either absolutely restored, or provided for, as appears *Pag. 70. and 71. to Pag. 145.* though in his Majesties said Declaration the said persons were only propounded as Nominees, and not otherwise to have any part of their Estate, until such as had the possession of them were first equally reprized for the true worth and value of them, if parting with them.

3. All the Lands in the Province of *Connaght*, and Counties of *Lymmerick, Clare, and Typperary*, which were at a vast charge to his late Majesty, and by a due Inquisition legally taken in the time of the Lord of *Strafford's* Government, found to belong to the Crown, and accordingly vested and settled on it in a time of peace, Amounting in all to near two Millions of Acres; are by the said explanatory Act *Pag. 7.* again taken away wholly out of the Crown, and the said legal Inquisition made null, though no cause is shown, nor any mention made in the said Act of any proceedings had in any Court or other where against the said Inquisitions, or any Compensation appears to have been given to his Majesty for the Recompence of so great a loss to him.

4. By which Act also a full third part, not only of the Souldiers, but of all the said Adventurers right is *Pag. 9.* wholly without their consent wrested away from them.

And notwithstanding it appears by the Records of the Surveyor Generals Office, that there were more then four Millions and a half of Acres that were admeasured set out or sequestred as Lands forfeited, which would near eight times have satisfied the whole debt of the said Adventurers. And notwithstanding it is by the said Acts of the 17. and 18. of the late King, and by the express contract there mentioned, expressly provided that no forfeited Lands should be disposed of, before the said Adventurers debt were first satisfied.

Yet such hath been the disposition of Lands that hath been made by the said Commissioners, That in a Report made by themselves to the Lord Lieutenant and Council on the 14. of *February* last; it appears that besides the third part of the whole debt taken away, as aforesaid, from the Adventurers, which doth alone amount to near two hundred Thousand Acres, and besides the elapse money taken away from them also, amounting to near Thirty Thousand Pounds Sterling: And besides the monies raised of a whole years Rent, according to the value of Lands in 1659. from the Adventurers, from the Souldiers in general, and from the pretended Innocent Papists that had their Estates decreed to them, which were (as before mentioned) all intended for the better satisfying of all Interest. And besides above Five Hundred Thousand Acres taken away as a third part of the Souldiers Land, yet the debt remaining, and required only for setting out Reprisals to such as have lost their possession for making up of deficiencies, and satisfying of Incumbrances, amounts to upward of Eight Hundred and Seventy Thousand Acres. For the satisfying of which, there is nevertheless confessed to be in their hands no more then Five Hundred Thousand Acres, of which One Hundred Fifty and Four Thousand Acres, or thereabout, lying in the mountainous part of the County of *Kerry*, and in the mountainous part of the Baronies of *Bear, Bantry, and Carberry* in the County of *Cork*, are such, and so bad Lands, as they will not be set or occupied by any without discharge of the quit Rent of them.

So that there remains of Land capable to be planted and managed but Three Hundred Forty and Six Thousand Acres or thereabout to satisfy a debt of far more than a million of Acres justly due according to his Majesties Declaration and Instructions and the Intention of the Act of Settlement, which debt so remaining, takes away all pretence (unless in name and in noise) of the actual Settlement of that Kingdom, and the Reality of it.

For how shall it be rationally affirmed by any, That Ireland is settled, when His Majesties Declaration and Instructions are not followed, nor the principal ends of them discharged and executed: And what colour can there be for any to affirm the said ends are pursued, when those very Interests that are Primarily Provided for by the said Declaration and Act for Settlement, are not in their just debts satisfied, or when that balance which was by the great and extraordinary Care, Prudence, and Justice of His Majesty most equally and exactly set for the poising of all Parties in that Kingdom (as appears pag. 27, 28, of the Act) shall with so much advantage in the executing of it be cast upon the Irish: And when for the sake of one Party, not a small but a vast debt is cast upon another Party, that either is never to be satisfied, and then His Majesties Justice as well as Intention fails in the accomplishment of it, and that very pleasure of His so openly published and declared, is expressly opposed and thwarted; or if satisfied, new difficulties (after the Partial disposal of near Five Millions of Acres Irish, which is near Eight Millions of Acres English) must upon His most Excellent Majesty and Council be unavoidably Created.

III.

Into the Nature of their Prayer.

By which true and impartial account of the proceedings of the Commissioners there, and of the state of things in that Country, It will appear,

That the Adventurers can never either too often mention, or with thankfulness enough acknowledge that vigilancy, care, and pains, which was with so much unweariedness spent by His Majesty, for the forming of a just, equal, and firm Settlement, and that even indifferently between all the parties concerned in that Country.

That for as much as the said Declaration therefore was a Birth brought forth with so much labour and difficulty to the Person of His most Excellent Majesty; and was (after all) the means which His Majesty freely and maturely made choice of and judged in his Princely Wisdom best and most necessarily conducing to the quiet and peaceable Settlement of that his distracted Kingdom, and to the satisfaction and content of all Interest whatever that did relate to it, The pleasure and accomplishment of which He himself hath declared was both more preferable by him, and far more grateful to him, then the consideration of any advantage that might otherwise be made of that Kingdom, as appears by the very words of His Majesty, *Pag. 27, 28.*

The Adventurers for these express Reasons do therefore with all humbleness and earnestness desire, That the said Declaration with that equal and just Settlement, not only intended and provided thereby; but even by his Majesty Himself desired to be given to all Interests concerned in that Country (and that indifferently) may as impartially be pursued, and in all respects ratified and confirmed.

2. But for as much as it was neither the Pleasure of His Majesty, nor the Intention of the said Declaration, That any such Irish Papists as were really and notoriously nocent, should be so restored, as that the English thereby should be any way dammified: And that notwithstanding this express care and provision of his Majesty through the most undue and irregular proceedings of the said Commissioners, and by their contriving and setting on foot the said Act for explanation, several Irish that have been not only eminently guilty of the Blood of that horrid and unprovoked Rebellion, but eminently active in the very Conduct of it, in the capacity of Generals, Lieutenant, and Major Generals, Councillors in the supreme Assembly, Agents abroad to Forraigne Princes, &c. have been and are restored both to their Land, Blood, and Estates; And some of them to far greater Estates then ever they had

had before the said Rebellion, and to all the very Improvements of the English upon them (as if they had merited for murdering His Majesties Subjects) and the said Adventurers and others the poor English and Protestants in that Kingdom, have been not only turned out of their Lands, but most of them to this day not any way repaid for the loss of them.

For these Reasons therefore the said Adventurers do (as in their humble and bounden Duty to His Majesty they ought) with all fervency supplicate,

That all those exorbitant Courses and irregular Proceedings, which since His Majesties Declaration, and under colour or pretence of executing of it, are alleadged to have obstructed that most equal, just, and happy Settlement intended to be given by it to all parties, and in the first place to His Majesties Protestant Subjects there, (who had dearly purchased the Interest they have in that Kingdom) and to have perverted the very end of the said Declaration; even to the depriving His Majesty of that great pleasure which he propounded in the due accomplishment of it: And no less depriving both the said Adventurers and the rest of the poor Protestants and English of that Benefit and Right which he most graciously intended. And further to have been to the prejudice of His Majesties Revenue and Crown, and to the very Safety and Security of that Kingdom; may in such manner as shall seem best to the Wisdom and Justice of the said Honourable House, be put into a way of Examination: and if found true by proof ready to be produced before the said Honourable House, may then in such manner also as shall seem best to them, not only be discountenanced, but redressed.

3. In order to which, in as much as the said Adventurers Contract being at first grounded on the solemn Honour, Justice, and Faith of His late Majesty, and of both Houses of Parliament in *England*, the Care of the said Adventurers satisfaction (with whatever may concern the just Complaints of them) doth, as the said Adventurers humbly conceive, properly appertain unto and devolve upon His Sovereign Majesty that now is, and the Parliament at present assembled: And that the nature of their Complaint also considered, they cannot possibly be elsewhere Relieved, either against the Arbitrary Power and proceedings of the said Commissioners, or against the extraordinary Injury sustained by their undue Decrees; or against the further wrongs occasioned to them from the Act of Explanation, then by the Parliament of *England* and the Authority of it.

The said Adventurers therefore as they find themselves for these Reasons absolutely constrained to make their Application to the said Honourable House (and to his Majesty as now sitting in Parliament) so they the more earnestly supplicate and implore the favour and justice of it.

4. For as much as the wresting away without their consent one third part of all their Right from them, after so long a time of forbearance of their Money, and after so much charge which hath more then equalled the first Purchase; and with so little profit and advantage as hath been hitherto reaped by the said Adventurers from it; hath been not only a most apparent violence, and extraordinary injury, and wrong done to the said Adventurers (with a Breach also expressly committed upon his Majesties Declaration) But a positive Infringment of the Priviledges of the said Honourable House of Commons, and of the Parliament of *England* it self, with whom alone the said Contract being at first made and perfected by the said Adventurers; By whom also it being openly declared and published, In honour of whom, and of the Faith and Authority of it, it ought to have been carefully and Religiously observed.

For as much also as the loss of the third said part added to the Deficiencies yet resting of the said Adventurers, and to their Elapse Money; and to the Reprisals due to them for the Lands decreed away from them; and to the Incumbrances still lying upon the small and remaining part of the Estate of them, doth and will upon account amount to the one half, if not more of the whole that is due to them (and therefore is no small part of their Concern) And yet that no part of this can any way visibly be had, save out of those Lands that are reserved as the general and reparable stock of that Country.

For as much nevertheless as it hath already appeared, that the said Stock is much of it not Plantable, or Occupiable by the said Adventurers; but is of that quality

quality as was by their Contract (and by the Acts of the 17. and 18. years of the late King) expressly to be cast in, over and above the Meadow, Arable and Pasture which was to be set out to them. Or if it were plantable and Occupiable by them, it is yet short and unable already to satisfy the demands of several others out of it, and of that very debt acknowledged to be Reprisable from it. And that therefore as the said Commissioners have now ordered and disposed of the forfeited Lands in that Kingdom, there remains no visible way or means whereby the said Adventurers can possibly hope, or propound to themselves to be there satisfied.

For these Reasons therefore, even from the utter impossibility (or at least from the inextricable difficulty) that appears to the said Adventurers, which way, or by what means they may possibly obtain that just satisfaction which is due to them, according to the Contract made by the *Parliament of England* with them (unless some expedient be allowed by the said Honourable House to be offered by the said Adventurers to them) The said Adventurers are yet farther necessitated to cast themselves upon the Favour and Justice of the said Honourable House; and to supplicate the Honour and Authority of them to make valid and good their Contract with them.

5. Wherefore for as much as no trouble had been put upon the said Honourable House, or any application made by the said Adventurers to his Majesty now sitting in *Parliament*, could any way have appeared to them to be otherwise relieved against the said Commissioners, or against the prejudice done them by the said Act for explanation.

For as much also as it is not either expressed in their Petition, or in the least intended by the said Adventurers, that any Adventurer, or any Souldier that is confirmed in their respective possessions, or hath taken out Letters Patents for them, or is in the quiet hold of them; should be either disturbed in them, or put to claim his Land again before a new Judicatory and Commission: Or that any thing is by the said Adventurers, or by their Petition propounded to the questioning of any other proceedings that have been made pursuant to his Majesties Declaration, or to that equal, happy, and just Settlement that is published and ~~is~~ *is*. And that the Address which is now made by the said Adventurers to the said Honourable House, hath not been carried on upon the account of any particular person whatever, or in favour to any Mans particular Concern or Complaint; but is made and presented by the Committee sitting at *Grocers Hall*. And by virtue of the Powers and Trusts expressly given by the Body of Adventurers to them, and so is pursued on behalf of the Common and publick Right and Concern of them.

They therefore do with all humbleness desire, that none of those Reports tending to asperse the Petitioners to the contrary, as if they were a few men only that are Factionous, or as if they aimed at the Destruction of All that Settlement that hath been hitherto made, or as if they were about to desire things no way consistent with the common good and safety of that poor Country; but endeavoured to unravel all things, and to reduce all into a Chaos and Confusion, may be credited, But may be rejected by the said Honourable House as scandalous and false; and such as have not only maliciously, but purposely been disseminated, and spread abroad by the Irish and their adherents (and by such as have got great and exorbitant grants and possessions of Land into their hand) to obstruct, hinder, and discredit the just Complaint and Address of the said Committee; who as they desire nothing more then, so shall (having now stated the truth of their Case) submit to nothing more readily and chearfully, then to whatever judgment and determination shall by the wisdom of his Majesty and Parliament be made concerning the Peace, Safety, and Settlement of that poor Kingdom.

FINIS.